



HAWK HEADLINER

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The Principal's Page LET'S GET TECHNICAL

OK everyone, let's get technical. For over a year now, Friendly Hills has had it's own web site. For more than that time each of our teachers have had their own e-mail address. This newsletter is available on the web before it hits your hands. Our web site has pictures and information that can be found no where else. And yet, it just doesn't get used that much. Same thing with our e-mail. So I say it is time to GET TECHNICAL.

First take a look at our web site. The address is

www.morongo.k12.ca.us/morfhe/index.html

Now I know this isn't an easy address, but have your kids help you bookmark it in your favorites.

Here you will find the weekly school lunch menu and a monthly calendar of school events. The latest pictures from events at school are also included. Hey! You will even find the latest weather from Yucca Valley High School. Student work is added on a regular basis, including projects such as the GATE web site on local history.



You will also find helpful web sites for your students, including search engines. We will soon be adding connections for e-pals, our e-mail service for students and web pages that support our text books.

While this is all great, it does no good if we don't use it. SO, LET'S GET TECHNICAL.

When you are done with that, zip off an e-mail to your child's teacher. It is easy. Their e-mail address is

Firstname_lastname@morongo.k12.ca.us

For example, mine is

kevin_blanding@morongo.k12.ca.us

Your kids are using this stuff all the time. It's our turn. Let's have a little fun and LET'S GET TECHNICAL!

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Dates of interest

- 10/8 FHEA (parent group) @ 6-8 pm
- 10/10 Freshers Photo Day
- 10/10 Site Based Management Council @ 3-4:45
- 10/14 Staff Development / Teacher Inservice (no school)
- 10/23-29 Red Ribbon Week
- 10/27 Daylight Savings Time Ends (Fall Back)
- 10/28 See's Candy Sale Begins
- 10/29 Wildlife Assembly
- 10/30 Awards Assemblies



REACHING FAR

This excellent program is gearing up for another successful year at Friendly Hills. It is called REACHING for "Family Achievement in Reading" or REACHING FAR for short. This program works with students from first through fifth grade who are having difficulty in reading. It takes place before school, so all the students get an extra dose of reading. What is unique about this program is the way it involves the family.



make sure that kids attend 95% of all the morning sessions. In return, the school sends home books with the children each night that are easy to read to increase the students reading fluency.

The teachers work in teams of two, working with 4 to 6 students each. One teacher works on phonics and word identification skills, while the other works on comprehension skills. In the upper grades a new program with a focus on reading comprehension is being implemented. The program is based on current research into best instructional practices.

Parents attend three meetings during the program to help them learn effective ways to work with their children in reading. Parents agree to read nightly with their children and to

Our parent group joins in by giving the participating students each a gift certificate to the Book Fair. When we all partner together, students succeed!

A BEAUTIFUL ADDITION



When school broke for the summer vacation last June, two of our talented teachers spent some extra time on campus. Mrs. Reed and Mrs. Seacat went right to work designing,

projecting and artistically rendering a beautiful desert life mural on the side panel of the storage unit facing the playground. Many tedious, detailed hours went into this labor of love for our school. This is the beginning of what we hope to be a "remembrance park" style area. The future plan includes a grass sitting area and benches placed strategically so students and staff can rest, read and enjoy the out-of-doors. We have lost some youngsters over the years to childhood diseases and other

tragic circumstances. We would like to honor and remember them in this area and will plan on placing plaques in their honor. At completion, we will have a ceremony in remembrance.

Please feel free to stop by the school and take a moment to envision the plan. We have a lovely start and thank, once again, Mrs. Reed and Mrs. Seacat for giving so unselfishly of their talents.



FRIENDLY HILLS ELEMENTARY ASSOCIATION

Speaking of something active, this group is one of the most important connections the school has between home and school.

While the parent group has many goals and serves many functions, one of the most important is their fund raising. Through their work, Friendly Hills is able to take more field trips than almost any other school in the district. Already this year they raised over \$500 from their annual spaghetti dinner and soda floats sale. The group is much more than fund raising, however. It is a chance to get involved and take an active

roll with what is happening at your child's school. Please join us at our next meeting, Tuesday, October 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Education is not the
filling of a pail, but
the lighting of a fire.

PARENT AND STUDENT REMINDERS

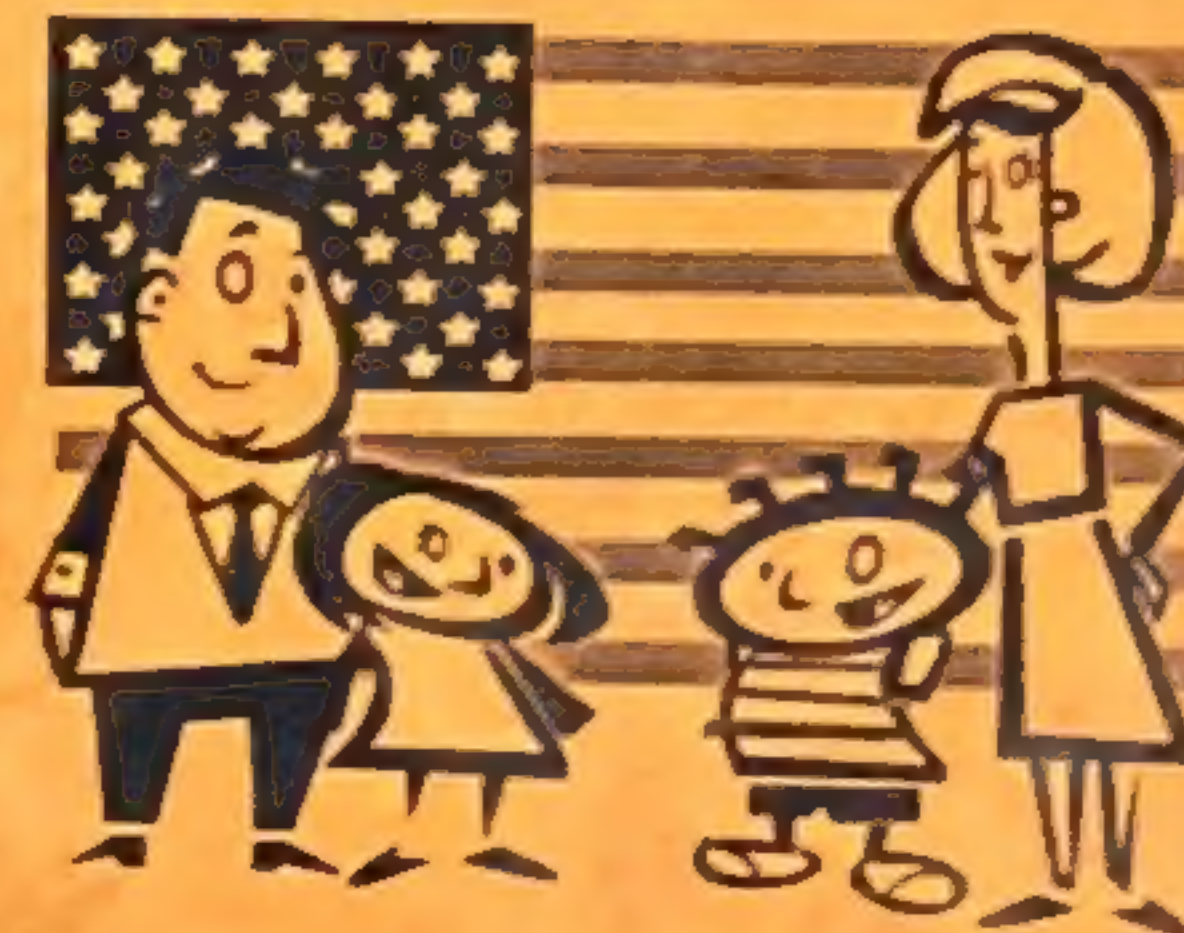
Our teachers love to have your kids here while they are teaching. There is so much to learn and share. Just a reminder, when children leave early, it disrupts that teaching, causing children to miss out on important information and results in a tardy for your child. The only exception is when this is cleared for a medical or dental appointment. While we do love to have your



children here, when they arrive early before the gates open at 9:10 am, for grades 1-6, it can be a recipe for trouble. Please make sure that your children are not arriving too early to school. We have no supervision before 9:10 a.m. and no crossing guard. We do have a bus that comes over from JT Kid's Club in the morning for those who would like supervised childcare. Check with the office for details.

Red Ribbon Week:

The week of October 23-29 is Red Ribbon Week. The special theme, for this year, is "Freedom is Drug Free". This theme ties in patriotism with the message of being drug, alcohol and tobacco free. Students will each receive a patriotic "weeble" with a drug-free message. We will also be having our student Sports Recess that week, along with a special assembly. We hope that families will take the stand, together, to be drug, alcohol and tobacco free.



News from the Library—

Paddington is showing off his brand new quilt. Yes, our dear bear has his own quilt. Mrs. Anna Merritt, our instructional assistant, made him the most beautiful quilt that you have ever seen. It has little Paddington bears all over it!!! Now he can take his naps. Oh, what a lucky bear he is!

Now, let me share with you some of the wonderful things we do in the library here at Friendly Hills.

Each class comes to the library for a half-hour visit. Kindergarten-Third grade can check out one book for one week. Fourth-Sixth choose two books. Seventh and eighth graders come into the library for research.

During their library visit, we learn library skills and listen to a super story. Paddington and the teacher choose a student who shows good library manners during their library visit. This pal gets to hold Paddington during story time AND gets a bookmark AND a piece of candy AND gets a chance for a book at the end of each month. Six students are chosen from the drawing and get to pick out a paperback book, to keep, from Paddington's book basket. What a grand time we have in our library!

This month we started reading the first California Young Reader nominee, "Because of Winn-Dixie". The upper grades are enjoying this book very much.

While writing this article for this newsletter, a wonderful woman from the Sportettes service club came in and donated \$200 for books for our library. This is the 3rd year that the Sportettes have donated money to our library. We all thank them so much!

Our Paddington Pals for the month of September are:

Jacquelyn Adams (Mrs. Mitz, Grade 1)
Caleb Norman (Mrs. Winchell, Grade 2)
Jeremy Dauphinais (Ms. Hodges, Grade 3)
David Brake (Mrs. Dempsey, Grade 4)
Mason Litvinoff (Mrs. Reed, Grade 5)
Nathaniel McPherson (Mrs. Strader, Grade 6)

Until next month, enjoy a good book!

Paddington and Mrs. K



"When I Went Walking..." by Mrs. Mitz's First Graders

When I went walking I
saw my brother Matt
and the teachers.

by Jacquelyn Adams



When I went walking I saw a water
fountain and bikes.

by Destiny Rhyne

SUMMER VACATION STORIES by Mrs. Strader's sixth grade class

Ground Zero by Cheyenne Westlake

Over the summer I went to several places, mainly in New York. My Grandma Bell was sending my sister, my mom, my dad and me. Of course only my dad had been there before. He used to live there a long time ago, but the last time he had been there was ten years ago. So, things have changed.

On the plane I was thinking about what we would see and learn and I knew I would be happy. After we were there a few days, I heard we were going to Ground Zero. The next day we went there and as we walked I could hear them drilling through more rubble of the towers. When we went to the platform they had walls covered with shirts and hats of New York's bravest firemen. Seeing the holes of where they stood was devastating. What was more devastating was on one of the fences were shirts and sheets covered in blood with names over the top.

Knowing that the anniversary of September 11, 2001 was coming reminded me of how our country came together and became better. Now we are like brothers and sisters. I like that.



The Golden Gate by Ashley Malone

Over summer break, I went to San Francisco. It was windy and full of people. My grandma, grandpa, two sisters, my aunt and I were supposed to go to Pier 39. We found every pier but ours. The car drove up and down the cold icy streets of San Francisco. Green buses were ringing bells to tell everyone they were coming.

There was Pier 39! A lot of cars were at the pier. My grandpa saw the dock for the ship so we got our tickets and waited in line for the boat to arrive. A man spotted the ship moving closer. One man took pictures of us while we walked into the ship. I was ready to go.

The boat was heading for the bridge. I watched the bridge run to us. The water splashed and dried on my face. My hair swung back like a roller coaster going as fast as it can. The boat started to go under the bridge. It was dark and shady under the Golden Gate Bridge. The boat turned and sailed away. As we pulled to the docks we walked to the exit and we got our stuff. I will never forget the Golden Gate Bridge.

Paint Ball Fight by Peter Gorwin

Finally school is out! I have money in my pocket and joy in my heart. I know what I am going to buy - a paint ball gun! Once I get home I run to my room, leap in the air and grab my money. Then to the store and buy my paint gun. My brother got one too but his is ten times better than mine!

Later that day we went to my grandpa's house to celebrate the summer. I get all my gear on for the paintball fight. My heart is working overtime. It is beating faster than a jackhammer hitting the cement. We go outside. I look at his face and he isn't nervous at all! I run as fast as I can and dive behind a large bush. I wait. It feels like forever but it has only been a couple of seconds. I am about to open fire BAM! He shot! Now is my chance. I pop out and BAM, BAM, BAM! He is shooting. I can't find him!

Where is he? There he is! I start to fire hoping for a lucky shot. All of his bullets are barely missing me! I fire my 15 bullets and BAM the war is over. All the excitement has disappeared into the sky. I hit the ground. I lost! My brother walks over. I look at my leg and all I see is blood paint and other colors.

Well, I learned a really good lesson that day. Don't fight with paint ball guns unless you can win!



FRIENDLY HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Friendly Hills is dedicated to ensuring that students acquire the necessary skills to be high achievers, exemplary citizens and life long, self motivated learners.

Please e-mail me at
kevin_blanding@morongo.k12.ca.us

Our Story

Friendly Hills School was founded in 1988 as part of the Morongo Unified School District. Since its inception, the school has been instrumental in the education of more than 2500 students. Our first kindergarten class graduated in the year 2000. We are confident that those students and all who have followed, leave this school with a strong, well rounded education. Our tradition has been one of academic excellence, high student expectations and an education rich in the arts. As we move into the future, Friendly Hills continues to lead in these areas, as well as emerging as an innovator in the area of technology. We attribute our success to a talented, dedicated staff, caring parents and wonderful students.

SCHOOL BASED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL NEWS

The School Based Management Council is a decision making body within the school. This committee puts together a Site Based Plan each year that outlines how money for special programs will be spent. It is made up of an equal number of parents and staff.

During this past month's meeting, the committee welcomed a new parent, Jolie Kelley to the committee. She will be serving as the recording secretary.

The primary task of the committee for this first meeting was to review the financial situation for the school. It is still not clear how much of a cut in funding we will experience this year, so some funding decisions were made on a tentative basis.

Due to our improvement in test scores from two

years ago, the committee received \$25,000 to spend on school improvements. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to spend the money on a Scantron for upper grade classes, Networking for the entire school, new computers for 4th grade, sports/playground equipment, and a new computer based math program for struggling students.

The group meets from 3:45 - 5:00 on the second Thursday of each month. If you have an interest in being part of this committee, please contact Mr. Blanding.





September Awards

Teacher's Name	Student of the Month	Citizenship Award	Outstanding Effort	Writing Award
Mrs. Bernardini	Sierra Zacks	Dylan Masterson	Randee Langley	Robert Krupp
Mr. Bogner	Marialena Martinez	Justin McCloud	Travis Rodriguez	Sarah Reed
Mrs. Candelaria	Madeline Quinn	Colby Compton	William Perrance	Sariah Roy
Mr. Chambless	Mikayla Cressy	Alec Stewart	Jodey Sifford	Jason Izer
Mrs. Dempsey	Sarah Clark	Josie Arechiga	Cassie Brohamer	Nathan Cotney
Mrs. Friedman	Jenna Fisher	Erin Ingram	Michael Hernandez	Amanda Gordon
Mr. & Mrs. Hesse	Isaiah Thomas	Greyson Benstead	Myraj McChristian	Peyton Orten
Ms. Hodges	Makayla Archer	Hanah Miller	Collin Smith	I'Brahn Smith
Mrs. Ladner	Breanna Schoenfeld	David Cuyno	Mitchell Nilan	Kaitlyn Miller
Mrs. Mann	Marc Salomon	Ronda Ebeling	Ryan Sniffin	Katie Mathein
Mrs. Mitz	Elise Kelley	Destiny Rhyne	Courtney Yakutis	Jack Ingram
Mrs. Reed	Cody Rosselli	Shelby Blair		Tim Zarki
Mrs. Seacat	Karson Scaccionoce	Rhyann Prekop	Isaac Parker	Tia Jones
Mrs. Strader	Cheyenne Westlake	Ariana Rodriguez	Louie Ramirez	Peter Gorwin
Ms. Subriar	Melanie Culver	Annetta Nilsen	Adrian Mijares	Amber Cosner
Mrs. Tilson	Kelsey Hulse	Megan Tree	David Atteberry	Katelynn Hannah
Ms. Williams	Billy Brown	Adrian Garcia	Alan Sifford	Cornell Gardner
Mrs. Winchell	Kalia Brown	Sierra Meskin	Katelynn Weedman	Caleb Norman

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